

### **REMARKS**

The following remarks are submitted to address the above amendments and issues raised in the Official Action mailed June 16, 2004.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, 26, and 29 are now pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 24, 25, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bozdagi (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,115). Claims 3-5, 9, 10, and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bozdagi in view of Topper (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,719). Claims 31-34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bozdagi in view of Branson (U.S. Patent No. 5,877,819). Claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, and 29 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 26 stands allowed.

No new matter has been added. Support for requested amendments can be found in the original claims and throughout the present specification and drawings. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

#### **Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 24, 25, 27, and 30 — 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 24, 25, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bozdagi. By amendment herein, Applicant respectfully cancels claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 24, 25, 27, and 30, to place the application in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, these rejections are moot. Therefore, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 24, 25, 27, and 30 under 35 USC § 103(a).

**Claims 3-5, 9, 10, and 28 — 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 3-5, 9, 10, and 28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bozdagi in view of Topper. By amendment herein, Applicant respectfully cancels claims 3-5, 9, 10, and 28, to place the application in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, these rejections are moot. Therefore, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 3-5, 9, 10, and 28 under 35 USC § 103(a).

**Claims 31-34 — 35 USC § 103(a)**

Claims 31-34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bozdagi in view of Branson. By amendment herein, Applicant respectfully cancels claims 31-34, to place the application in better condition for allowance. Accordingly, these rejections are moot. Therefore, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claims 31-34 under 35 USC § 103(a).

**Claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, and 29**

The Official Action states that claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Official Action, para. 5.)

Applicant has amended 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, and 29 herein by rewriting the pertinent claims in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In particular, claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2-5. Claim 7 depends from claim 6. Claim 8 has been rewritten to depend from claim 6. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 11. Claim 13 depends from claim 12. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base

claim 1 and intervening claims 11 and 14. Claims 16-23 depend from claim 15. Claim 29 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of base claim 27 and intervening claim 28.

For all of these reasons, the Office is respectfully requested to withdraw the objections to claims 6-8, 12, 13, 15-23, and 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that a full and complete response has been made herein to the Official Action and, as such, all pending claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests early consideration of the present application, entry of all amendments herein requested, withdrawal of all rejections and objections, and allowance of all pending claims.

The Office is respectfully invited to contact J. Michael Boggs at (336) 747-7536, to discuss any matter relating to this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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